

Garden Light Signals

Use punctuation and word choice to plan an expressive rereading.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4b "Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each comma, period, question mark, and exclamation point that tells you to pause or change your voice. Underline the words in quotation marks, then read the passage aloud two times, using your marks to guide your rate and expression.

Maya's Garden Walk

- ① At dusk, Maya carried a small lantern to the garden gate. Her grandfather had asked her to check the tomato plants before the cool night came. The path was quiet, but leaves rustled near her shoes. Maya slowed down. Then she saw a bright green glow lift from the grass. "A firefly!" she whispered with surprise.
- ② Grandfather stepped onto the porch and smiled. "They use their lights to talk to one another," he said. Maya watched two more fireflies blink above the beans. Flash, pause, flash! Their tiny signals made the dark garden seem busy. She held her lantern low and listened as crickets began their evening song in the grass nearby.
- ③ Maya did not rush back to the house. First, she looked carefully at each plant, just as Grandfather had asked. Next, she raised her lantern and followed the path home. "Good night, little lights," she called. The fireflies blinked again beside the path, and Maya smiled at their quiet answer as she walked through the gate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 In paragraph 1, which punctuation mark tells you to use an excited voice for "A firefly!"?

2 Read "Flash, pause, flash!" How should you use your voice at the commas and the exclamation point?

3 Which sentence in paragraph 3 gives you a clue to slow down and sound careful?

4 Which quoted words in paragraph 1 should you read in a quiet whisper?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one sentence from the passage that is not in quotation marks. Copy it, add slash marks where you will pause, and underline two words you will stress. Read it aloud twice, using smoother rate and expression on your second reading.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each comma, period, question mark, and exclamation point that tells you to pause or change your voice.

Underline the words in quotation marks, then read the passage aloud two times, using your marks to guide your rate and expression. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which punctuation mark tells you to use an excited voice for "A firefly!"?	The exclamation point.
2	Read "Flash, pause, flash!" How should you use your voice at the commas and the exclamation point?	Pause briefly at each comma, then say the final "flash" with energy or excitement.
3	Which sentence in paragraph 3 gives you a clue to slow down and sound careful?	"First, she looked carefully at each plant, just as Grandfather had asked."
4	Which quoted words in paragraph 1 should you read in a quiet whisper?	"A firefly!"

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Her _grandfather_ had asked her to check the _tomato plants_ / before the cool night came.

Accept punctuation-guided reading descriptions that match the meaning and mood of the passage. For Part 3, accept any non-quoted passage sentence with reasonable pause marks and two stressed words that help communicate meaning.